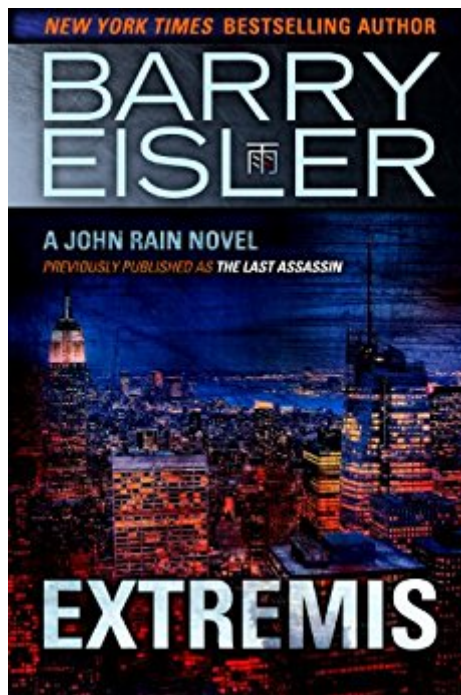




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Extremis (Previously Published As The Last Assassin) (A John Rain Novel Book 5)



Synopsis

Previously published as *The Last Assassin* Even for an average citizen, a love triangle is dangerous business. For assassin John Rain—“one of the most compelling lead characters in the genre” (USA Today)—it’s going to be downright deadly. When Rain learns that his former lover, Midori, has been raising their child in New York, Rain senses a chance for reconciliation, perhaps even for redemption. But Midori and the child are being watched by Rain’s enemies, and Rain’s sudden appearance puts them in terrible danger. To save them, Rain is forced to use the same deadly talents he had been hoping to leave behind. With the help of Tatsu, his one-time nemesis in the Japanese FBI; and Dox, the former Marine sniper whose good ol’ boy persona masks a killer as deadly as Rain himself, Rain races against time to bring his enemies into the open and eliminate them forever. *Extremis* was previously published as *The Last Assassin*, the fifth in the bestselling John Rain assassin series.

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Customer Reviews

There are a few characters in novel series that I just love. A new book comes out and I must read it. Usually the character has layers of depth. No character is as deep as John Rain. This novel caps his previous four stories, pulling in virtually all the other characters in those novels, from Midori to Delilah, Dox to Tatsu, and the bad guys. While I read the stories for the action, it is the depth of thought that Rain has that I find intriguing.

This is the fifth book of the John Rain series by Barry Eisler. In the fourth book, our hero finds out that his erstwhile lover Midori has a boy-child who looks like him. He tells Delilah, a Mossad agent that he is romantically involved in. he couldn't help but go to New York City to find out if it is his son. He calls his friend Dox to help. Unlike the previous books, John Rain is now in unfamiliar territories, Barcelona and New York City. It shows. He doesn't know where to find things to buy, such as a knife. While New York does have laws against switch-blades, ballistic knives, metal knuckle knife, and cane swords, there is no law against hunting knives, dirks, daggers, or stilettos. He could have walked into a hardware store or sporting goods store (Paragon's at Union Square, for example) to buy a folding knife. On the other hand, Eisler found out about places in New York that only New Yorkers know, like bars and restaurants that had no or very small signs, pub burgers, protective doormen, and other eccentricities of New York. Of course, John Rain takes the action back to Japan where the story began. He knows Japan in ways that few Japanese would know. For example, only real old timers would know Shinagawa of the 1970's and how much it has changed. Likewise, Wajima City is far from the beaten track, on the outer side of Noto Peninsula, a place that most Japanese have not been. He even knew the insides of Jikei Hospital. Apparently, Barry Eisler had been hospitalized there in 2001 after a fall. The authenticity of the story details, particularly in Japan, is what sets The John Rain stories from all others. Barry Eisler has a eye and feel for secret places that even long time Tokyo residents would not know. While he did not comment about the existence of Whispers Club in Minami Aoyama, it sounds like it was real, probably down to the details of its bathrooms. There is a Blue Note Tokyo. But perhaps the most interesting and possibly convincing rationale behind the John Rain stories is not only how easy it is for people to kill each other but how assassination is the most efficient way to eliminate your political, criminal, or terrorist problems. Nobody is invulnerable. You can run but you can't hide. Eventually, you will end up on some video feed somewhere and a computer will recognize you. If you use a cell phone, you can be tracked. If you use Internet from your cell phone or computer, your key clicks are being logged. If you use a GPS, your movements can be traced. no wonder the CIA announced a reorganization of their organization where they have a whole division devoted to digital activities and they have eliminated

the National Clandestine Service. All clandestine work will be outsourced. In summary, this is a great book. Thought-provoking and meticulously researched, the story of John Rain continues to amaze and intrigue. It is unquestionably the best series of its kind ever written, better than even Ian Fleming's James Bond series. It is sad that the movie "Rain Man" turned out to be a bust. The books are so much better.

I have simply devoured all the John Rain books. THE LAST ASSASSIN arrived in the mail yesterday; as always, I couldn't put it down and finished it tonight, disappointed I'd reached the end. John Rain is an assassin you get attached to, and even begin to understand. Another reviewer is apparently disappointed in the way Rain has evolved over the course of five books. However, the changes are simply evidence of Rain's maturing process. A couple of books ago, Rain met a woman, unwillingly fell in love, and now finds out he has a son. The emotional impact of these developments have forced him to start wondering if it's even possible to live a different kind of life, out of the "business" he's worked at for so many years. But in order to leave that life and ensure his son's safety, many obstacles must be removed in the only way Rain knows. Barry Eisler is a gifted writer who has created wonderfully believable characters and scrupulously researched stories. The locales he describes are so easy to visualize, I almost feel like I'm there while I'm reading. And his knowledge of spycraft is fascinating. He's made a cruelly efficient, paid assassin actually likable, a man the reader can relate to, despite the viciousness of his world. Although each John Rain novel can be read as a stand-alone story, I do recommend starting with the first, RAIN FALL, and following with HARD RAIN, RAIN STORM, and KILLING RAIN. Each story is edge-of-the-seat reading, and seeing the evolution of John Rain from the beginning is very satisfying. I'm just hoping that the title, THE LAST ASSASSIN, isn't Barry Eisler's way of telling us he's taken John Rain as far as he can.

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